Authorities at Jamshedpur six persons of a smuggling gang were arrested on 5.12.1986. Four samples out of the seized material were tested and they did not contain any uranium.

(c) Strict security measures exist in the Uranium Mine and Mill Complex at Jaduguda.

Replacement of the Rolls Royce RB-199 engine of the Light Combat Aircraft

2631. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1873 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government's decision to replace the Rolls Royce RB-199 engine of the Light Combat Aircraft by the GE F-404 is likely to affect the schedule of the Project; and

(b) what is the present progress on the indigenous GTX engine for the Light Combat Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Various engine options were examined for use as the interim power plant in the LCA and finally the General Electric F-404 has been selected. The decision on the choice of the interim power plant would not have any effect on the schedule of the project.

(b) Design specifications of the GTX variant for the LCA have been evolved. Some of the technologies and the systems of this variant are under development and testing.

Allegations against Doordarshan and All India Radio

2632. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of Parliament in their communication to the Minister, have alleged that the Government controlled media-TV and All India Radio continue as before to take an anti-opposition stances taking recourse to all sorts of distortions and untruths in editing and preparing scripts of giving news and opinions;

(b) what are names of these members of Parliament; and

(c) what are the details of the allegations made by them, and Governments reaction to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) As news organisations, both All India Radio and Doordarshan adhere to the policy guidelines prepared by the Advisory Committee on Official Media and present news|programmes in an objective, balanced and Factual manner. Allegations made by Members of Parliament against AIR|TV regarding distortions in coverage, etc. are looked into carefully. Such allegations have been found to be without basis.

Recently (January, 1987), a letter was received from Smt. Kanak Mukherjee, Member of Parliament, which contains similar allegations. Details of allegations made in the letter and comments thereon are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The broad allegations made by Smt. Kanak Mukherjee, MP in her letter are:—

(i) discrimination against the leaders of the Left Front and State Ministers in terms of coverage on AIR and Doordarshan;

(ii) distortion of Shri M. J. Akbar's interview with the Chief Minister, West Bengal, telecast on 28-12-1986; and

(iii) repeated broadcast|telecast of Prime Minister's announcement of allocations to Govt. of West Bengal and ignoring Chief Minister's contradiction thereof.

The position in regard to the above allegations is given in the following paragraphs.

The allegations that AIR and Doordarshan discriminate against the leaders of Left Front and State Ministers in terms of coverage are unfounded.

As news organisations, both AIR and Doordarshan adhere to the news policy and guidelines prepared by the Advisory Committee on Official Media and present news|programme in an objective, balanced and factual manner. The view points of the ruling party as well as that of the opposition are reported. The deciding factor for inclusion of items in the news is their newsworthiness.

As regards the special programme prepared by Shri M. J. Akbar and telecast on 28-12-1986, this programme included statements from the Chief Minister, West Bengal and other state leaders.

It is also not correct to say that while the Prime Minister's announcement of allocations to West Bengal was repeatedly broadcast|telecast the Chief Minister's contradiction of the Prime Minister's statistics of allocations and grants to West Bengal was not mentioned.

Statistics of break-down of the allocations and grants to West Bengal as given by the Prime Minister was noticed both by AIR and Doordarshan in a fair, objective and balanced manner. The Chief Minister's rejoinder was used in news bulletins by AIR, Calcutta, four times. On Doordarshan also, the West Bengal Chief Minister's contradiction of the Prime Minister's announcements and how much the State actually received from the Centre was telecast in the Focus programme entitled 'West Bengal at Cross Road' telecast on 28-12-1986.

Repeated telecast of sanctions to West Bengal

2633. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently (September, 1986), there was repeated Television and All India Radio broadcasting of the Prime Minister's statistics regarding financial grants and sanctions to the West Bengal State Government, while West Bengal's Chief Minister's contradiction with the statistics about how much the State actually received from the Centre was not broadcast even once; and

(b) if not, the answer to (a) in the negative, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Statistical break-down of the allocation and grants to West Bengal as given by the Prime Minister was noticed by All India Radio and Doordarshan in a fair, objective and balanced manner.

The Chief Minister's rejoinders were also used in the news bulletins by All India Radio, Calcutta on four occasions as and when these were made available.

The important announcement relating to package of economic assistance to West Bengal was telecast in both national bulletins and Calcutta regional bulletin on Doordarshan. Later on, a report on "Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to West Bengal" was telecast in which also Prime Minister's announcement of financial grant to the West Bengal Government was noticed. The West Bengal Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Basu's contradiction of the Prime Minister's announcement and how much the states actually received from the Centre was telecast later on in the Focus Programme entitled "West Bengal at Cross Road" which was telecast on 28-12-1986.

Concessions given to the Industrialists

2634. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total value of concessions given to the industrialists and exporters through Central budgets for 1985-86 and 1986-87, including tax remission and others; and

(b) what is the estimated loss to the State exchequer on this account?